

# Emergency Support Function #11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources

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## Primary Agency

Virginia Department of Health - Roanoke Health Department

## Secondary/Support Agencies

Department of Social Services

Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services

Emergency Management

American Red Cross

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Roanoke Valley Food Banks

## I. Introduction

### A. Purpose:

Emergency Support Function #11 – The Health Department coordinates multiple departments to address the provision of nutrition assistance; control and eradication of an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, highly infective plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation; assurance of food safety and security; and protection of cultural resources and historic property resources during an incident.

### B. Scope:

Activities will be undertaken to:

1. Identify food assistance needs;
2. Obtain appropriate food supplies;
3. Arrange for transportation of food supplies to the designated area;
4. Implement an integrated response to an outbreak of highly contagious or economically devastating animal disease, infective exotic plant disease or an economically devastating plant pest infestation;
5. Coordinate with Public Health and Medical Services to ensure that animal/veterinary/and wildlife issues are supported;
6. Inspect and verify food safety in distribution and retail sites;
7. Conduct food borne disease surveillance and field investigations;
8. Coordinate appropriate response actions to conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore natural, cultural, and historic properties resources.

### C. Policies:

1. Each supporting agency is responsible for managing its assets and resources after receiving direction from the Department of Social Services;

2. Actions will be coordinated with agencies responsible for mass feeding;
3. This ESF will encourage the use of mass feeding as the primary outlet for disaster food supplies;
4. Schools and institutions may be able to feed affected population for several days;
5. Food supplies secured and delivered are for household distribution or congregate meal service;
6. Transportation and distribution may be arranged by volunteer organizations;
7. Priority is given to moving supplies into areas of critical need and then to areas of moderate need;
8. Animal culling and disposal will be conducted as humanely as possible; and
9. Ensure food safety.

## **II. Concept of Operations**

### **A. General:**

The Health Department will assume the coordinator's role of the ESF. The coordinator will organize staff based on the four functional areas;

1. Organizes and coordinates resources and capabilities to facilitate the delivery of services, assistance, and expertise;
2. Provides for an integrated response to an outbreak of highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, exotic plant disease, or economically devastating plant or pest infestation;
3. Ensures the safety and security of the commercial supply of food (meat, poultry and egg products) following an incident; and
4. Identifies, secures and arranges for the transportation of food to areas.

### **B. Organization:**

1. The coordination depends on what kind of assistance is required at the time. When an incident requires assistance from more than one of the functions, the Health Department provides overall direction;
2. Once the ESF is activated, the coordinator will contact appropriate support agencies to assess the situation and determine appropriate actions;
3. The City of Roanoke may activate its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A local emergency may need to be declared to initiate response activities; and
4. For food supply safety and security, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Health Department coordinate the field response.

### **C. Actions**

1. Determine the critical needs of the affected population;
2. Catalog available resources and locate these resources;
3. Ensure food is fit for consumption;

4. Coordinate shipment of food to staging areas;
5. Work to obtain critical food supplies that are unavailable from existing inventories;
6. Identify animal and plant disease outbreaks; and
7. Provide inspection, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest termination and destruction of animals or articles found to be contaminated or infected.

#### **D. Responsibilities**

##### **1. Primary Department (Health Department)**

- a. Provides guidance to unaffected areas as to precautions that may be taken to ensure animal and plant health;
- b. Ensure proper handling and packing of any samples and shipments to the appropriate research laboratory;
- c. Provides information and recommendations to the Health Department for outbreak incidents;
- d. Assigns veterinary personnel to assist in delivering animal health care and performing preventative medicine activities;
- e. Conduct subsequent investigations jointly with other law enforcement agencies;
- f. Assess the operating status of inspected meat, poultry and egg product processing, distribution, import and retail facilities in the affected area;
- g. Evaluate the adequacy of inspectors, program investigators and laboratory services relative to the incident;
- h. Establish need for replacement food products;

##### **2. Support Departments**

- a. Establish logistical links with organizations involved in long-term congregate meal service;
- b. Work closely with the Health department on all City responsibilities; and
- c. Work with ESF-7 (Resource Management) to organize and coordinate resources and capabilities to facilitate the delivery of services, assistance, and expertise